

Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory Council
June 21, 2012
Minutes

Council Member Updates

Sarah LeSage:

- An aquatic plant training was held on June 18, 2012, for Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) staff that will be participating in the National Lake Assessment. The training included reviewing live specimens and reviewing a key of aquatic plants and animals for species that are already in Michigan and those that are on the brink of getting into Michigan. The National Lake Assessment will focus on 50 inland lakes starting in July.

Todd Goniea:

- The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) received a report of grass carp in Marrs Lake in Lenawee County near Jackson. The DNR is currently conducting a 3-day survey. No grass carp were found the first day, and electroshocking was going to be used the second day. Sampling will continue.

Dan Vogler:

- The state of Arkansas is pressing charges for theft against the person who was caught selling grass carp in Michigan. Dan received a letter following the grass carp issue from the state of Arkansas providing their regulations on the issue.

Phyllis Green:

- The National Park Service will be having a dedication ceremony for their ballast water system on Thursday, June 28, 2012.

Council Business

Meeting minutes: It was agreed that draft minutes from the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Advisory Council (Council) meetings will be sent to Council members for review before finalizing and posting on the AIS Web page.

Senate Bill 1052: Sarah Lesage indicated that due to the introduction of Senate Bill 1052, the Council received an additional assignment from the Legislature to review and provide recommendations on phragmites control measures. The Council needs to review, determine suitable practices (chemical treatment, mowing, etc.), and make recommendations. The DEQ has some good education material already prepared - *A Guide to the Control and Management of Invasive Phragmites* and *A Landowner's Guide to Phragmites Control* - that would be a good start on recommendations.

Tim Eder asked about the status of the 401 Certification. Bill Creal has been meeting with Director Dan Wyant, Iakars, etc. We are still on track to finalize the certification by the end of June to meet the deadline.

Mark Burrows gave a presentation on the safe usage practices for buyers and sellers (presentation is available on the AIS Web page). There is a tremendous amount of activity and high value information that can be taken advantage of and used for Michigan education and outreach. He also reviewed a few pages of a pdf document prepared by Ruben Keller, Loyola University, Chicago, regarding using the Organisms in Trade Web site as a resource on the Web. Sarah recommended having Pat Charlebois, Indiana/Illinois Sea Grant, give a presentation at a future meeting. Matt Smego asked about the Organisms in Trade education and outreach mechanisms being funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Mark Burrows indicated that it's best to get long-term sustainable funding to keep a program going. Dan Vogler indicated that it's easy to get the information and material (Web pages, pamphlets, watch cards, etc.) out there but it's hard to get users to change their behavior.

State Management Plan (SMP)

Recommendations are due from the Council by early July in order to submit the final SMP submitted to the federal Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force by October 1 for them to have it in place by the end of the year. The Council reviewed the SMP and discussed their comments. The changes that the Council agreed to are available on the AIS Web page.

Bill Creal reminded everyone to keep in mind while we go through this process that the Council can create technical work groups if needed and can ask the Core Team for assistance.

Tim Eder gave a presentation on harmonizing federal and state law (presentation is available on the AIS Web page). The handout he provided included a list of prohibited species in the Great Lakes region compiled by the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species, and regulatory references for each state and province in the Great Lakes region (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Ontario, and Quebec). It was suggested that the state harmonize with the federal list of prohibited species through the state process. The DNR and Department of Agriculture and Rural Development will determine whether or not we can harmonize with the federal list using the state process and whether they are willing to do so. It was also considered that changes could be made to the statute so that species added to the federal list would be automatically public noticed and then added to the state list. The Council encourages Michigan to collaborate with other states to also harmonize their lists with the Lacey Act and Noxious Weed List. It was also recommended that when the DEQ updates their process for risk assessment that anything added to the federal list also be added to the state list.

Dan Vogler spoke about the disease/contamination free program established by AIS Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP). The Council has been charged with providing recommendations on a program to certify that organisms are free of disease, insect pests, and incidental contamination by other species.

Matt Smego gave a presentation on connecting regulations and education on organisms in trade to Pure Michigan (presentation is available on the AIS Web page). Availability of consumer education materials – welcome centers, state parks, and private retail locations. Risk assessment programs: provide incentives for participating in voluntary, proactive risk-based assessment program; look at existing program models (i.e., the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program [MAEAP], voluntary code of conduct, AIS HACCP); and develop a marketing program with Pure Michigan to utilize an invasive free label based on voluntary participation in the fish assessment program. When developing such a program, a few questions to consider include:

1. If I participate in this program, is there a chance the program will morph from a voluntary program to a mandatory program?

2. Isn't the product the same at the end of the day (i.e., you are still marketing fish or plants)?

The Council is charged with "Establishing a program for aquatic species in trade to certify that the organisms are free of disease, insect pests, and incidental contamination by other species." This will be discussed further at a future meeting.

Hanna Kruckman is working on synthesizing information on available risk assessment processes to classify species as prohibited, permitted, and restricted. Hannah is a Fenske fellowship student with Michigan State University who is working with two mentors - Jessica Mistak in the DNR's Fisheries Division and Sarah LeSage in the DEQ's Water Resources Division. Hanna gave a PowerPoint presentation on her project to review risk assessments and develop a matrix (presentation is available on the AIS Web page).

Future Meetings

July 18, 2012, 9:00 a.m., Constitution Hall, Lansing

August 16, 2012, 9:30 a.m., Roscommon Township Hall, Roscommon

Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.